

Copy Cats

- Other countries followed Britain's lead and came to see colonies as necessary for their economic well-being.
 - The French and Dutch expanded their holdings and by 1900 France had an empire second in size only to Britain's.
 - Spain and Portugal attempted to build new empires in Africa.
 - Austria-Hungary moved into the Balkans.
 - Russia expanded into the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Siberia.
- Countries that had no colonies set out to acquire them.
 - Belgium, Italy, and Germany all took over lands in Africa (with Germany also taking an interest in East Asia & the Pacific islands).

- Two non-European countries, the United States and Japan, also became involved in overseas expansion during this period.
 - Both the U.S. and Japan were interested in East Asia.
 - The U.S. was also deeply tied to Latin America.
- Increasingly, Europeans viewed an empire as a measure of national stature.
- Thus, the race for colonies grew out of a strong sense of national pride as well as from economic competition.

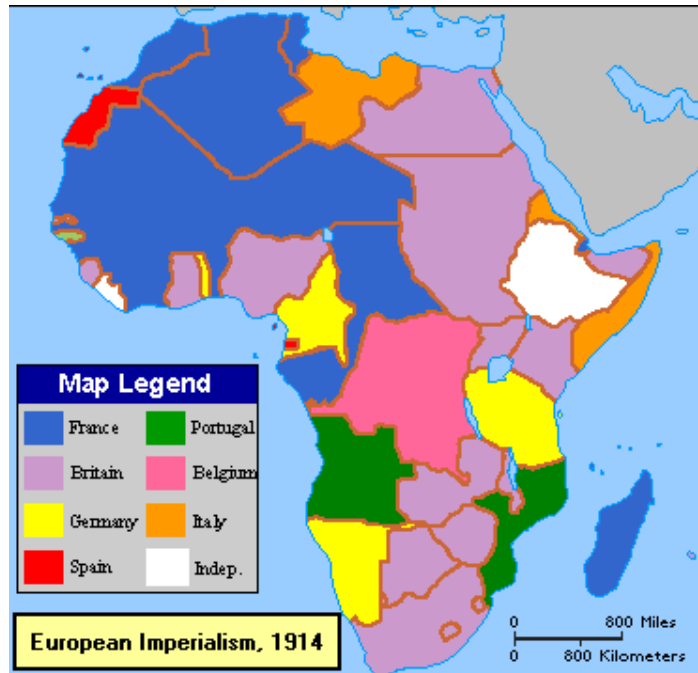
Eurocentrism

- Because of the Industrial Revolution, Europeans regarded their new technology (weaponry, telegraphs, railroads etc.) as proof they were better than other peoples.
- This attitude is a reflection of **racism**, the belief that one race is superior to others.
- Europeans believed that they had the right and duty to bring the results of their progress to other countries.

The Berlin Conference 1884-85

- a. Initiated by King Leopold of Belgium.
- b. To avoid conflict with one another in Africa, European leaders met in Berlin, Germany. With little regard or representation for native Africans, the European powers set about carving up Africa according to the following guidelines:
 - Any sovereign power which wanted to claim any territory should inform the other powers “in order to ... make good any claim of their own.”
 - Any such annexation should be validated by effective occupation. **Principle of Effectivity**
 - Treaties with African rulers were to be considered a valid title to **sovereignty**.
 - This spurred colonization of Africa.

- This single act began a flurry of imperialistic activity.
- By 1895 only independent states were Liberia (established by US for freed slaves) & Abyssinia (Ethiopia).
- By 1902, 90% of all African lands were controlled by Europeans.



The Congo...a case study

- King Leopold II (Belgium) appointed himself King Sovereign of Congo Free State in 1885
- Belgian Congo was 76 times bigger than Belgium itself



- Locals were forced to collect the sap required to produce rubber or have their hands or feet, or those of their children, cut off.
- Between 1880 and 1920 the population of Congo decreased by half.
- Historians estimate that 8-10 million persons perished from the violence, forced labor, and starvation caused by Leopold's lust for power and profits.



Force Publique



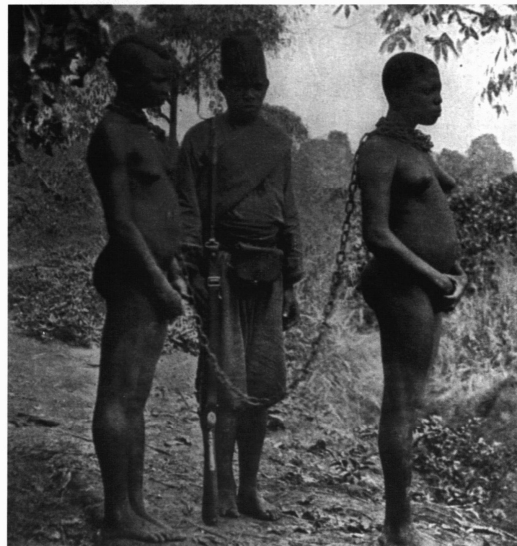
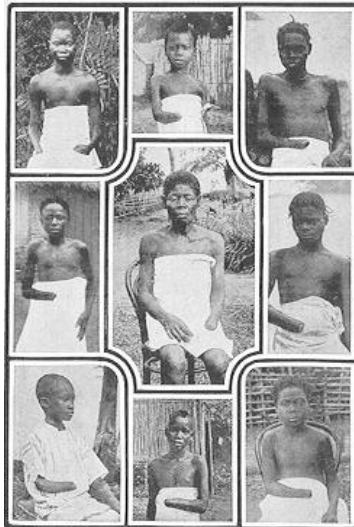
THE AGENTS OF THE MODERN AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE
THE "FORCE PUBLIQUE" OF THE CONGO STATE

- Leopold's 19,000 man private army
- Enforced Rubber Collection Laws
- Compared to Hitler's SS for its brutality



Two youths of the Equator district. The hands of Mola, seated, have been destroyed by gangrene after being tied too tightly by soldier. The right hand of Yoka, standing, was cut off by soldiers wanting to claim him as killed.

- The Force Publique took human hands as trophies on the orders of white officers to show that bullets hadn't been wasted.
- Some of the victims lived.



Women hostages, held under guard in order to force their husbands to go into the rain forest to gather wild rubber.



“The baskets of severed hands, set down at the feet of the European post commanders, became the symbol of the Congo Free State...”

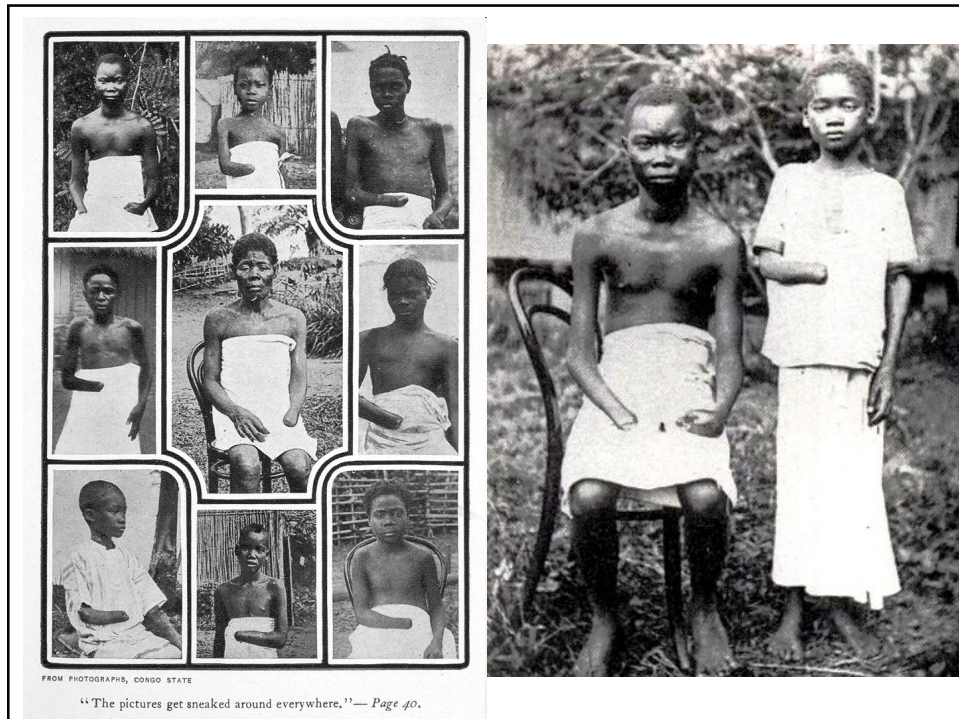
THE VICTIM OF A RUBBER RAID
A LIVING ILLUSTRATION OF THE “MAIN COUPÉES” DERATES IN THE BELGIAN CHAMBER. THE BOY HERE PHOTOGRAPHED IS NOW CARED FOR BY A BRITISH MISSIONARY IN THE UPPER CONGO

Hands collected ...



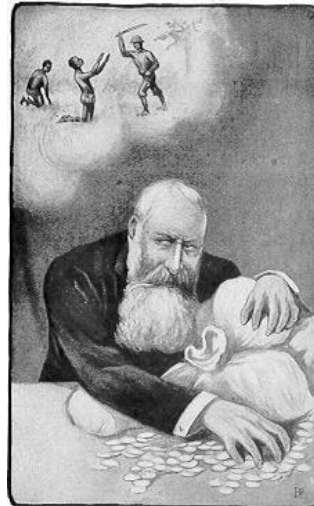
NATIVES OF THE NSONGO DISTRICT (ABIR CONCESSION)

(With hands of two of their countrymen, Lingomo and Bolengo, murdered by rubber sentries in May, 1904. The white men are Mr. Stannard and Mr. Harris, of the Congo Bulolo Mission at Baringa. See letter from Mr. Stannard in the Appendix.)



- King Leopold's Congo Free State was an economic, environmental, cultural, and human disaster for the Congo people. When he died in 1909 at age 74, much of the world despised him. American poet Vachel Lindsay wrote this epitaph:

– *Listen to the yell of Leopold's ghost
Burning in Hell for his hand-maimed host,
Hear how the demons chuckle and yell
Cutting his hands off, down in Hell.*



Zulus v. Boers

- Original Dutch settlers, later called Boers, migrated into the interior of South Africa and began to engage in conflicts with the Zulu. These battles with the Boer settlers continued well into the late 1800s, but never truly threatened Zulu sovereignty.
- The Zulu were a south African tribe that placed an emphasis on military organization and skill, as established by their legendary leader Shaka Zulu. Under Shaka's rule, the Zulu broadened their land claims throughout southern Africa.
- Eventually, the Zulu came into the conflict with the British army as the Brits expanded their control over southern Africa and invaded the homeland of the Zulu.
- Despite early victories, the Zulu were eventually defeated by the technology and vast resources at the command of the British troops. Soon, all of southern Africa would come under British control.



Cecil Rhodes and the Boer War



Cecil Rhodes stands astride the whole of Africa.

- **Cecil Rhodes** was key to British dominance in South Africa.
- Founded the De Beers Mining Company, eventually controlling 90% of the world's diamond production. After becoming prime minister of the Cape Colony (now South Africa) in 1890, he used his influence to strengthen British control over the region.
- **Cape to Cairo** railroad line that would link British colonial interests in Africa between Egypt and the Cape Colony in southern Africa was his master plan.
- **The Boers**, however, provided heavy and eventually armed resistance to this proposal. He authorized an aggressive invasion of the Boer Republic of Transvaal which ended poorly, and he was removed from office. But Boer War between British and Boers started from the antagonisms.
- **Great Britain decided to annex the Boer republics.**
- Boers resisted --**Boer War** (1899-1902). By all accounts the fighting was vicious, with the Boers employing guerilla tactics and the British eventually using 450,000 troops to achieve victory.

